



*Parks and Recreation ♦ 4811 North Saginaw Road ♦ Midland, Michigan 48640 ♦ 989.837.6930 ♦ 989.835.5651 Fax ♦ [www.cityofmidlandmi.gov](http://www.cityofmidlandmi.gov)*

April 28, 2016

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Karen Murphy, Public Services Director

SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Commission - Meeting of May 3, 2016

The regular meeting of the Midland Parks and Recreation Commission has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 3, 2016. The meeting will be held in Council Chambers of Midland City Hall at 333 W. Ellsworth and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call
- 4) Minutes of meeting of March 10, 2016
- 5) Call to Audience
- 6) Consumers Energy tree planting grant
- 7) America In Bloom update
- 8) Division Reports:
  - a. Parks - Summer operations report
  - b. Recreation
    - i. City Forest end of season report
    - ii. Plymouth Pool – new season passes
- 9) Project Reports:
  - a. River overlooks and City Forest trail signage
  - b. Midland Academy parks clean up event
  - c. Arbor Day recognition events
  - d. Modern Woodsmen of America tree planting event
- 10) Old Business
- 11) New Business
- 12) Adjourn



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April 28, 2016

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Karen Murphy, Director of Public Services

SUBJECT: Notes for Meeting of May 3, 2016

Consumers Energy tree planting grant: Park supervisor Bart Heil will share information on a generous grant from Consumers Energy to support a volunteer tree planting along North Saginaw Road. The grant will provide trees to replace ash trees removed due to Emerald Ash Borer. The donation is valued at \$10,000 and I will ask the Commission to accept this donation on behalf of the City.

America In Bloom update: I will provide an update on America In Bloom, including dates for the judges visit and progress made to date on preparing for the visit. I will also share more details for the Secret Garden contest and share a sample of the seed packet promotional piece.

Division Reports:

- a. **Parks - Summer operations report:** Bart Heil will give a review of the Parks summer operations as requested in the current year's Commission Work Plan.
- b. **Recreation:** Recreation Manager Marcie Post will join us to give a City Forest end of season report, and will share information on a new format for the Plymouth Pool season passes.

Project Reports: I will give an update on the river overlook project and the City Forest trail signage. In addition, I will do a follow up on a recent park clean up event that we hosted for the Midland Academy, and I will give a follow up on the City's Arbor Day recognition events held in conjunction with local elementary schools. I will also share information on a park tree planting donation from the Modern Woodsmen of America financial group.

MIDLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 10, 2016  
MIDLAND CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
7:00 P.M.

PROPOSED MINUTES

- 1) Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson John Metevia
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Roll Call:
  - a. MEMBERS PRESENT: Bovid, Carlson, Carney, Metevia, Rice, Steidemann, Varela
  - b. MEMBERS ABSENT: Billotti, Rankin
  - c. OTHERS PRESENT: Park Supervisor Bart Heil
- 4) Minutes of February 2, 2016 and March 1, 2016: Varela motioned, Carlson seconded to receive minutes of the meeting of February 2, 2016 and the meeting of March 1, 2016. Motion passed 7-0.
- 5) Call to Audience: None
- 6) Grant application to Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for Emerson Park project: Murphy reported that the City was not successful in obtaining a 2015 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for the Emerson Park riverfront renovation project. The project includes repurposing the 1938 water intake pump house into an accessible river overlook platform, and creating an accessible fishing dock, boardwalk and floating boat dock. In addition, an accessible parking lot would be built, along with new railing along the existing sea wall and a seating area. The project would connect on both ends to the Rail Trail. Staff feels very strongly that the project has good merit and fits within the guidelines of the MNRTF program. All three matching fund providers, the Midland Area Community Foundation, the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network and the Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail have agreed to extend the terms of their matching grants to allow the City to pursue the grant again in 2016. The grant request to MNRTF will again be for \$300,000 and requires support from both the Parks and Recreation Commission as well as an approved resolution of support from the City Council. Murphy asked for a motion of support and a recommendation from the Parks Commission that City Council pass a resolution in support of the grant application. Rice motioned accordingly, Bovid seconded the motion and the motion passed 7 - 0.

7) Division Report:

- a. Pere-Marquette Rail Trail – Role of City Parks Department: Park Supervisor Bart Heil gave a report on the City's portion of the Rail Trail, including a brief history of the trail that was built in 1993 through efforts of the Midland Area Community Foundation. Heil shared that the City is responsible for tree work, mowing, crack sealing, seal coating and providing winter snow removal on the City's 3 miles of trail that stretch from the Farmers Market trailhead to Dublin Road. Heil also talked about the role of the Friends of the Pere Marquette Rail Trail as a user support group. In 2015, the City hired a trail consultant from Ohio to review the trail and provide a long range maintenance recommendation for the trail which includes a mill and overlay, using a geotextile fabric layer to reduce reflective cracking and a special seal coating program that will better penetrate the trail to maintain long-term flexibility of the pavement. The consultant also provided recommendations to replace the decking on the wooden decked railroad bridge. Heil shared that a plan is underway to replace signage along the trail as part of a larger community-wide non-motorized wayfinding signage project.
- b. Chippewa Banks Disc Golf Course: Parks Supervisor Bart Heil gave a presentation on the City's disc golf course. Opened in 1997 as a 9-hole course and expanded in 1998 to an 18-hole course, Heil shared details about the course and shared the City's website where players can download score cards. Heil shared usage statistics provided by the disc golf user group, and talked about the user group's involvement in hosting tournaments and helping with volunteer work days. Heil talked about the signage that was provided in 2012 by a generous local donor, and he discussed the City's role in maintaining the course with weekly and yearly mowing and tree maintenance. Heil discussed future concerns with the course, including the loss of ash trees that are integral to play as well as buckthorn that needs to be removed. Heil stated that City staff will work with the user groups when addressing these issues to minimize the impact on play or redesign play where needed.

8) Old Business: NONE

- 9) New Business: Murphy thanked the Commissioners for attending this special meeting on short notice so that the MNRTF grant could be addressed.

Murphy also reminded the Commission that there is no scheduled Parks Commission meeting in April due to the proximity of the Midland Public Schools' spring break.

Murphy shared that three commissioners have three year terms that will end June 30 as follows: Commissioners Varela and Carlson have both declared interest in

being reappointed for another term, and Commissioner Bovid has opted to step down from the commission at the end of her term. Murphy stated that City Council will reappoint those interested in another term, and an open process will be conducted to appoint a new commissioner to the vacant seat.

- 10) Adjourn: Motioned by Steidemann, seconded by Carlson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 7– 0. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Murphy  
Director of Public Services